

CEMC Meeting

Feb. 7, 2013

Attended this meeting which yielded the following information;

Environment Canada; Etienne Gregoire, Envir. Canada will be updating their notification system which will result in a broader scope of levels or warnings and the impacts that may result from them. This means that instead of a county wide warning the warning will be more geographically pinpointed and the impacts more detailed for the specific area. These changes are expected to come into effect in June of this year and Environment Canada will be looking for input from Municipalities.

Green to Red Green – a system is coming but there will be no impact, Yellow –the impacts will be few, Brown –the impact will be significant, and Red – the impact will be on an emergency level, i.e. tornado, etc.

It was also suggested that people be advised to use the Environment Canada Weather site as it is deemed to be more accurate for Canadian Weather as it is updated every few hours.

Low Water Response team- Laurie Armstrong updated the group with the following; Level 1 has been lifted but the impact of the drought period will not be completely realized until the trees come into leaf and those that have been killed off are more visible. Some problems for those on wells and the bulk of the county are on wells, i.e. – water levels in dug wells. For future planning some areas may need to look at being able to provide areas for showers, laundry, drinking water sources etc., should this type of event occur again. The group is still working on creating a “how to guide” and assessing the impact.

The question of the municipalities area of responsibility came up should wells dry up, especially if the municipality is a well only area.

Red Cross- Deborah Smith DM Coordinator, According to Deborah all municipalities in Renfrew county have an agreement with Red Cross through their Fire Department. This agreement provides all 6 social services. The Red Cross is looking to improve their support capabilities to any community needing it. As HCM does not have a Fire department and our agreement is apparently very old we need to follow-up with this one as I feel this is the group that can best support us in the event we have an emergency issue. The Red Cross is just starting a volunteer blitz and I am wondering if we could not use that and have our volunteers trained through RC especially our EOC group. One thing that did come up was our obligation to train/prepare our volunteers re chainsaw courses and our insurance liability.

Valley Heritage Radio- Donny Ferguson and Marg Bauer, How can this station help the CEMC group in an event? They proposed that they be the station to call during an event so residents can get updates. Some question on how other stations would react to not being contacted was discussed and it was felt the bottom line would determine the outcome....VHR is volunteer manned station in a situation and the dollar impact would be certainly low. They can provide 24 hours updates during an event. It should be noted that we are outside of the VHR broadcasting area.

EMO Regional and Provincial Update- Steve Osipenko, this group met in Sudbury and the Ontario Mass Evacuation Plan was a topic of discussion and I felt this was a new item although it states it should be part of your plan. It is primarily designed for larger centres. The EMO yearly report should be out by the end of March.

ODRAP – apparently this organization does not recognize drought as an event as they do flooding. It was felt drought was not all encompassing and would only affect the individual not the masses. Apparently drought would fall to OMAFRA - Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. Where ODRAP could come into play is if an incident happened in one area and impacted another. You then need to be careful of the area defined in the your claim.

Schools – from a request of a principal in the Arnprior school system a plan has been submitted (EMO) to assist school in emergency preparedness.

EMES – Emergency Management Enterprise Software has the same licensing fees for a small area as it does for larger. I.e. Toronto or Renfrew it is still a \$5000.00 fee. They are looking at some way of allowing smaller populated areas to share a license.

WSIB – they offer 2 Tiers 1 and 2 which is self funded. It was discovered that if you declare and some of your volunteers who are covered, put in claims it would only take 1 or 2 to bankrupt smaller townships. The group/speaker is recommending that municipalities clarify their coverage and which tier they are and how we are impacted. I think if I understood this correctly that if you are tier one you need to check out your policy.

Also under this heading we discussed the training of volunteers we have listed for our municipalities. We have a legal obligation to ensure they are trained for the job for which have been hired. Chainsaw training was the example given.

After Action Reports- out of 174 recommendations accumulated not all were actioned but they were in the process of doing so. A summer student compiled a list of 10 years' worth which helped to create a new template for the "after action report".

City Wide Exercise- Leslie Wirth, The dates of June 5&6 or June 24 & 25 where offered as choices with June 25 being the current expected date to do this exercise. The CEMC's are to think about what they would like the exercise to be and review the dates offered. A conference call will be set up for Feb. 15 10-11 to discuss final details of when and what. Leslie will circulate the phone number and passcode for this call.

Gayle Watters

HCM – Em. Preparedness.